

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated March 14, 2006, and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

A petition for a two-month extension of time accompanies this response together with the appropriate fee. Accordingly, the deadline for responding to the Office Action has been extended until August 14, 2006, and this response is therefore timely filed since it was deposited in the mail for First Class Delivery Service on the date certified on the front page hereof.

With regard to the rejection of certain claims under 35 USC §112, each of the informalities discussed in the Office Action has been addressed and appropriate claim changes have been made. As amended, all of the claims are believed to be in proper form and in full compliance with 35 USC §112.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claims 1, as amended, together with remaining dependent claims 5-9 and 11 define a unique polyoxymethylene mold composition which is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art taken alone or in combination with one another. Specifically, these claims are not anticipated by either Burg et al US 3,642,940 ("Burg '940") or Flexman US 5,344,882. Additionally, these claims are not rendered obvious by the combination of Burg '940 or Flexman in view of Burg et al US 5,039,741 ("Burg '941") or Tanigawa et al US 6,399,699 ("Tanigawa"), for the reasons discussed below.

Neither Burg '940 nor Flexman disclose or suggest polyoxymethylene molding compositions, where the compatibilizer contains underlying units of formulae I, II, III, IV

or V in a certain ratio. Similarly, the secondary references comprising Burg '741 and Tanigawa do not address the deficiencies of the primary references.

Surprisingly, it has been found that the inventive polyoxymethylene molding compositions have considerably better impact resistance than the prior art. In particular, the present invention gives a surprising improvement in low-temperature impact resistance (Table 1).

The use of the compatibilizer "blend" according to the invention – in a very small amount of 0.1 to 5.0 % by weight – improves mechanical impact properties, such as Charpy notched impact strength and, even more significantly, fracture energy in the automated penetration test (biaxial impact), in particular **even at low temperatures (-30 °C)**.

An additional feature of the molding compositions prepared is that there is only a minimal reduction in static mechanical properties (tensile strength, modulus). There is likewise an improvement in the ductilities (tensile strain at break) achievable.

Accordingly, for these reasons it is believed that the pending claims herein define patentable subject matter and distinguish over the applied prior art. A Notice of Allowance is believed to be in order, and it is respectfully requested that such Notice be forthcoming.

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Respectfully submitted,

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